AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented collaboration system comprising:

at least one repository server associated with at least one data source and enabled for accessing data items within said at least one data source using access methods native to said at least one data source;

at least one client tool enabled for displaying the data items within said at least one data source on a user terminal connectable with said computer implemented collaboration system;

at least one data channel server providing an interface between said at least one repository server and said at least one client tool; and

at least one extended property associated with each data item within said at least one data source, said at least one extended property being maintained ~~by~~within said at least one data channel server.

2. (Original) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 1 wherein said at least one extended property comprises one of a visualization property and a control property for use in displaying the data items with said at least one client tool.

3. (Original) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 1 comprising a plurality of client tools enabled for displaying the data items within said at least one data source.

4. (Original) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 3 wherein said plurality of client tools include a map viewer, a list viewer, and an X-Y data plotter.

5. (Original) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 1 further comprising:

a query viewing client tool enabled for use in constructing queries for selecting data from said at least one data source meeting particular criteria; ·

a library server providing an interface between said query viewing client application and said at least one repository server.

6.   (Original) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 5 wherein said query viewing client tool is enabled for use in constructing at least one of a standing query and a static query.

7.   (Original) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 1 further comprising:

a conference manager client tool enabled for managing communication between multiple user terminals connectable with said computer implemented collaboration system.

8.   (Original) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 1 wherein said at least one extended property is maintained in said at least one data channel server in a directed a-cyclic graphical form.

9.   (Original) The computer implemented collaboration system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one repository server, said at least one client tool, and said at least one data channel server are implemented within a CORBA framework.

10-26. (Withdrawn)

27.   (New) A computer implemented collaboration system comprising:

at least one repository server associated with at least one data source and enabled for accessing data items within said at least one data source using access methods native to said at least one data source;

at least one document server providing at least one interface for creating a plurality of documents, each document representing selected data items within said at least one data source;

at least one client tool enabled for displaying the data items represented by each document on a user terminal connectable with said computer implemented collaboration system;

at least one data channel server providing an interface between said at least one repository server and said at least one client tool, said at least one data channel server being further enabled for maintaining an instance of at least one extended property associated with each data item represented in a document.

28.   (New) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 27 further comprising:

a query viewing client tool enabled for use in constructing queries for selecting data items from said at least one data source meeting particular criteria; and

a library server providing an interface between said query viewing client application and said at least one repository server.

29.   (New) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 5 wherein said query viewing client tool is enabled for use in constructing at least one of a standing query and a static query, wherein a document representing data items selected as a result of a standing query is updated when the selected data items change.

30.   (New) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 27 further comprising:

at least one conference manager client tool enabled for managing communication between multiple user terminals connectable with said computer implemented collaboration system, each said document being placed within a conference managed by said at least one conference manager client tool.

31.   (New) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 27 wherein said at least one extended property comprises one of a visualization property and a control property for use in displaying the data items with said at least one client tool.

32.   (New) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 27 wherein said at least one client tool is selected from a group consisting of a map viewer, a list viewer, and an X-Y data plotter.

33.   (New) The computer implemented collaboration system of claim 27 wherein said at least one extended property is maintained in said at least one data channel server in a directed a-cyclic graphical form.

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34. (New) The computer implemented collaboration system of Claim 27 wherein said at least one repository server, said at least one document server, said at least one client tool, and said at least one data channel server are implemented within a CORBA framework.